

# Investigator's Report

*Detective*

Case Information

Investigator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Case File #: 007 \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: Fossil Origins \_\_\_\_\_

Location: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO \_\_\_\_\_

## Observations:

You know that plants and animals were preserved to make fossils. How does that happen? Make some observations about the fossils. By now you have seen the two major types of fossils found at Florissant, the stumps and the small insect and plant fossils preserved in rock. You have seen how they can be compared with organisms living today, but do you know what it takes for an organism to become fossilized and preserved? The factors that acted to preserve the redwood stumps were different than the factors for preserving the delicate paper shale fossils. Observe the differences between the two types of fossils.

Questions and Hypotheses

Create hypotheses for the following questions. Remember that a hypothesis should be a statement that answers the question and is testable with the evidence you will collect.

1. Why did the lahar flows allow the redwood stumps to be preserved, but little else?

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2. If the lake shales preserved so many insects and plants, why are there not as many mammals, birds, and fish fossils?

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3. What are the two ways that fossils were formed at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument?

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Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Tour - The Eocene Epoch:

Evidence

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Learning from Fossils:

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Permineralization:

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Compression and Impressions:

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## Results and Conclusions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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